DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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MEET THE PRESS

Hitler's Propagandists Dominate W. German Papers

The press of West Germany and West Berlin is dominated by men who worked for Hitler's propaganda machine. This was shown very clearly by the documentary facts presented to journalists from many countries at a press conference held in East Berlin on March 16th.

Details of the nazi records of the men who run the central Press Office of the West German Government, and who edit many of the main West German newspapers are given below.

It is unnecessary to stress the danger which this represents. By their domination of the main organs of information and opinion in West Germany and West Berlin, these nazi journalists and SS officers play a large part in keeping the Cold War going, and misleading a large part of the German people; but their influence is even greater. The foreign correspondents in West Germany naturally have to draw a large part of their information from the nazi-dominated Government Press Office and the nazi-dominated newspapers; as a result their information is often poisoned at the source.

Now read on, to discover the background story about the "men behind the news" in West Germany and West Berlin today.

1. The Bonn Press Office

The West German Press Office, equivalent to Goebbels' old Propaganda Ministry, employs about 500 persons. Its budget for 1962 amounts to about 90 million marks (over £8 million) which is devoted to government propaganda, and used for direct and indirect bribes to the West German and foreign press.

Felix von Eckardt, Head of the Press and Information Office of the West German Government.

Herr von Eckardt was appointed West German press chief in 1952. Announcing the appointment, Chancellor Adenauer stated "We must expect the highest moral and political standards from a press chief".

During the entire nazi period, Eckardt worked as a very successful film script writer. Details of some of the nazi propaganda films which he wrote are given in "Berlin Notebook" on the back page of this issue. All his films were banned by the allies after the war.

At a press conference in Geneva on June 5th 1959, Eckardt was queried about the anti-Semitic slogans being smeared on West German walls. He replied: "We live in a free society. Anyone can smear up what he wants".

Dr Harald Zuehlsdorf, Head of Department I of the Foreign Section of the Bonn Press Office.

Joined the Nazi Party in 1933, and held the rank of "political leader". Worked as leading official in nazi Propaganda Ministry from 1938—45.

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Dr Waldemar Wuensche, official in the News Centre of the Bonn Press Office.

Joined the Nazi Party in 1932. In 1935 became "official for frontier questions and overseas Germandom" in the nazi Ministry of Education.

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Hubert Siepe, official in Central Department of Bonn Press Office.

Officer of the SS and Gestapo. Evidence was given at Recklinghausen Denazification Court on July 9th 1947 that he had beaten up foreign slave workers during the nazi period.

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Hannes Schmitz, official in Central Department of Bonn Press Office.

Nazi Party credentials issued to Schmitz on September 18th 1939 state: "Nazi Party member since 1937, official district speaker 1938. Special fields: Heredity, racial doctrine ... He has been education official of SS since 1934."

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Wilhelm Helfrich, official in Central Department of Bonn Press Office.

SS membership No. 53,328. An official nazi report, dated March 1st 1939, states: "Helfrich has always been a firm supporter of National Socialism."

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Dr Helmuth Rogge, official in Central Department of Bonn Press Office.

SS lieutenant, and education officer of the 7th SS Cavalry Unit.

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Wolf-Dietrich Seeher, official in Foreign Department of Bonn Press Office, responsible for supervising foreign journalists.

Joined the Nazi Party in May 1932.

2. Leading West German Newspapers

a. The Springer Group

Biggest press trust in West Germany is the Springer Group, which publishes "Bild-Zeitung", West Germany's biggest popular paper with a circulation of nearly four million; "Die Welt", the leading "serious" paper; three other dailies; and magazines with a total circulation of over five million. No details are available on the past history of Axel Springer, owner of the trust, but he is son-in-law of SS General Werner Lorenz. In 1953 Springer stated: "I encourage my editors almost every day to keep awake the unrest about Germany's

lost territories." Here are some details of the leading journalists who work for the Springer group of newspapers:

Hans Zehrer, editor of "Die Welt".

Before Hitler came to power, Hans Zehrer edited a magazine called "Die Tat", which preached a form of "intellectual National Socialism". In April 1929 he wrote: "Inside the frontiers of Europe only the German people have a great task". When Hitler came to power, he gave enthusiastic support: "Germany has been appointed to give the final form of National Socialism to the world ... Our country carries the burdens of the whole world on its shoulders, our people have been selected by God." **("Die Tat", June 1933).** He is today openly opposed to any negotiations on the German problem: "Talk about negotiations is practically an argument for capitulation ... Anyone who speaks of negotiation is really reaching for the white flag."

("Die Welt", August 26th 1961)

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Fried Zimmermann, alias Ferdinand Fried, economics editor of "Die Welt".

In a document found in the nazi archives, Herr Zimmermann reported: "On September 2nd 1934 I was accepted in the SS by the Reich Fuehrer personally (Himmler), and given the rank of First Lieutenant ... At the same time I was attached to the Racial and Settlement Office of the SS." In 1937 Zimmermann published a book entitled "The Rise of the Jews", in which he stated: "The Jews have always attempted to undermine the Nordic peoples ... by cunning and swindling. They can create no culture, they can only steal or destroy culture".

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Georg Schroeder, Political Correspondent of "Die Welt".

During the nazi period Schroeder was chief correspondent of "Europa Press", a news agency run by Goebbels to supply collaborationist newspapers in all parts of Europe with nazi propaganda.

What These Nazis Write Today

"We must say a word to those Protestant priests who busily subvert their congregations by preaching against the atom bomb ... They think they are serving God, but they are actually serving the Communists, who want to turn their churches into stables."

"Die Welt", West Germany, March 22nd 1962

London Correspondents Please Note

Foreign correspondents in London may be interested to learn something about the past history of one of their West German colleagues. Dr Heinz Hoepfl, who represents the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" in London, used to work for the official nazi newspaper "Völkische Beobachter". On September 16th 1939 he had the following to say about Sir Winston Churchill: "This late and decaying bloom on the Marlborough family tree ... This political charlatan, blessed with a lack of conscience unusual even amongst the bankrupt politicians of Britain ... Amongst his friends, even today, are many Jewish 'patrons' ... Poland has opened her jails and sent the convicts out to harry the ethnic Germans; Britain has made a man who should be in jail the First Lord of the Admiralty."

Herbert von Borch, Washington Correspondent of "Die Welt".

During the nazi period served as foreign correspondent in Rome for nazi newspapers. Here is an excerpt from one of his reports: "The internal situation of England proves that the British, who are responsible for starting the war, have already lost it morally."

(Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung", April 2nd 1943)

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Karlheinz Holzhausen, West-Berlin correspondent of "Die Welt".

During the war Holzhausen worked for "Voelkische Beobachter", the official Nazi Party organ. Two months before the end of the war he wrote: "Young soldiers! Now you must gather round your standards like the Nibelungen. Fight with even more hatred than the enemy, and hold out, even if this should mean your destruction."

("Voelkischer Beobachter", March 9th 1945

b. "Christ und Welt"

The weekly newspaper "Christ und Welt" is an influential organ of the "intellectual wing" of Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party. One of the main shareholders is Dr Eugen Gerstenmaier, Chairman of the West German Parliament.

Dr Giselher Wirsing, editor of "Christ und Welt".

During the nazi period Dr Wirsing held the rank of captain in the SS, and nazi documents show that he was a "willing, hard-working and extremely valuable" collaborator with the SD, Himmler's spy service. (Nazi document quoted in "Der Spiegel", Hamburg, November 25th 1959). Throughout the whole nazi period he wrote books and articles praising Hitler and reeking of racialism.

"Germany has arisen again, thanks to the glowing will of the Fuehrer. It is the first duty of every German to help him carry his burden."

("Koepfe der Weltpolitik", 1935)

"Those smaller Slav states which have proved unable to govern themselves naturally fall to the greater peoples ... This is the great European revolution, which will also lead to a new partitioning of the politically empty spaces in Africa."

("XX. Jahrhundert", July 1940)

"Only the victory of Germany can save the European way of life."

("Münchener Neueste Nachrichten", June 17th 1944)

"The influence of Jewry in London and Washington has increased since the fall of France. Britain is largely under Jewish dictatorship."

("Der masslose Kontinent", 1942)

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Hans-Georg von Studnitz, correspondent of "Christ und Welt"

During the nazi period, Herr von Studnitz worked for various nazi newspapers, and from 1940 to 1945 in a leading position in the German Foreign Ministry. Here is an extract from one of his articles, entitled "The Jew Roosevelt":

"If you want to understand Mr Roosevelt, you have to take a look at his closest advisers ... These men are the same whose ancestors once knew how to cross the Red Sea without getting their feet wet. They are people who know the prices all over the world, but only one other thing – typical Jewish fright ... The foreign policy of Roosevelt and his Jewish assistants is marked by filth, shamelessness, stupidity and deep lack of political morality."

("Berliner Lokalanzeiger", November 14th 1941)

c. "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung"

The weekly "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" is the weekly organ of the Free Democratic Party, one of the partners in Chancellor Adenauer's coalition government.

Siegfried Zoglmann, Editor, "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung"

Herr Zoglmann is today not only an editor, but also Free Democratic member of the West German Parliament. During the nazi period he was head of the Hitler Youth in occupied Czechoslovakia, and was an SS officer.

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SOLUTION FOR W. BERLIN KNOT

Ulbricht Keynote Speech on Current Problems

The latest GDR proposals for a speedy solution of the West Berlin problem were outlined by Walter Ulbricht, GDR State Council Chairman, at a meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party on March 21st.

In his keynote speech Chairman Ulbricht also dealt with proposals for the disarmament of the two German states and with economic problems.

The main point made by Walter Ulbricht with regard to the West Berlin problem was that this could not be dealt with, as the western powers were proposing, simply by making some new arrangements with regard to the access routes to West Berlin.

"Leading western statesmen declare that the problem of access is the key problem" Walter Ulbricht stated, "but agreement can only be reached on the question of access when the real basic problem is tackled. This basic problem is that West Berlin is a city area lying within the sovereign German Democratic Republic. The first thing which must be done is to reach agreement on wiping out the abnormal situation in West Berlin. That means getting rid of the Occupation Statute, the foreign occupation forces, the espionage centres, and so on. The question of access guarantees is inextricably bound up with the preparation of a peace treaty, and treaty arrangements on a peaceful West Berlin.

"There have been many examples in history of transit agreements, but they have all been agreements for peaceful transit or peaceful overflight. The GDR cannot be expected to guarantee free access to a West Berlin which is a NATO bastion, a centre of sabotage and cold war.

"With regard to communications between West Berlin and the outside world, the GDR is ready to consider, in connection with a peace treaty, granting rights to the guaranteeing powers to act as a sort of arbitration court on peaceful access to West Berlin."

The four powers, possibly with the aid of some United Nations body, could then settle differences which might arise with the GDR, Walter Ulbricht suggested.

"Such an agreement could only be reached after the Occupation Statute had been abolished in West Berlin, and after the troops of the western powers had been withdrawn, or after a symbolic contingent of neutral troops had been stationed in West Berlin as a guarantee.

"If the four powers can reach agreement on a genuine normalisation of the situation in West Berlin in connection with a peace settlement, then we can see a prospect of making arrangements to regulate access."

Chairman Ulbricht then emphasised once again that a contractual agreement on access to West Berlin could only be reached after a peace settlement which would guarantee the existing frontiers.

Turning to the question of relations between the two German states, particularly in the field of arms, Walter Ulbricht repeated and reaffirmed a minimum programme of cooperation on disarmament which has recently been mooted by the GDR. He suggested that the two German states should agree on the following steps:

1. They should formally renounce the use of force against each other and against third powers.

2. They should agree on an arms standstill.

3. They should both renounce nuclear weapons, the stationing of such weapons in either German state, and all participation in nuclear tests at home and abroad.

4. They should ban all war propaganda and all territorial claims.

Both German states should accept international control to see that these measures were complied with, and control commissions should be established in both states consisting of representatives of Parliament, the trade unions, and other organisations.

"In addition, the GDR supports without reservation the establishment of an atom-free zone in central and northern Europe, including both German states, and the establishment of thinned-out armaments including both German states," Walter Ulbricht stated.

Turning to economic problems in the GDR, Walter Ulbricht stressed that although industry and agriculture in the GDR had made great strides forward, there were very many problems still to be tackled. The "open frontier" between East and West, which had existed in Berlin until August 13th 1961, had cost the GDR at least 30 thousand million marks (nearly £ 3,000 million). This sum would have been sufficient to modernise the whole of the industry of the GDR.

The great problem facing the GDR today was to make up for this loss by increasing the accumulation, thus making possible larger investments to modernise industry. At present the rate of accumulation is too low: it would have to be increased, firstly by raising productivity, and secondly by slowing down the increase in that part of the national income available for consumer goods. At present, Walter Ulbricht stated, the GDR was living above its income: in the past three years money incomes had increased faster than was planned, and investment had lagged far behind.

He thanked the Soviet Union for its recent grant of a big credit, and stressed that the grant of this credit was extremely generous in view of the fact that the living standard in the Soviet Union is still lower than the living standard in the GDR.

Consul-General in Cambodia

The GDR and the Kingdom of Cambodia decided in March to exchange Consulates-General and further strengthen friendly relations between their two countries. Hans Voss, who has been appointed GDR Consul-General in the Cambodian capital of Pnom Penh, spoke at length with Government leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who stressed the need to acknowledge that two different states exist in Germany.

The GDR already maintains Consulates-General or Consulates in Burma, Indonesia, Syria and the United Arab Republic as well as permanent government trade missions in 14 other countries outside the socialist bloc.

(cont. from page 62)

3. The West Berlin Press

The main newspapers in West Berlin are nearly all run by men with very questionable records during the nazi period. Two of them, "Berliner Morgenpost" and "BZ" form part of the Springer trust, details of which have been given above. Here are details of the past records of the men who edit other main West Berlin newspapers:

Karl Willy Beer, editor of "Der Tag".

"Der Tag" is the official West Berlin organ of Adenauer's Christian Democrats. During the nazi period Herr Beer wrote hate articles for many leading nazi newspapers. One of his articles deserves to be quoted at some length:

"Himmler's impressive and new-style leadership and organisation of the entire German police and security system, which then took over a wider field of activity, has given his career its particular style... Himmler is the man who created a quite new style of security system, which can act harshly and consistently in both its secret and visible portions; at the same time he has always supported the view that the police have to be the friends of the people. But he has given the police orders that they must suppress with pitiless severity every attempt to endanger the state."

("Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung", January 28th 1944)

Remember?

"All members of the Nazi Party who have been more than nominal participants in its activities ... shall be removed from public and semi-public office, and from positions of responsibility in important private undertakings. Such persons shall be replaced by persons who, by their political and moral qualities, are deemed capable of assisting in developing genuine democratic institutions in Germany."

Potsdam Agreement, August 2nd 1945

It should be noted that when Herr Beer wrote these words, Himmler's "friendly police" had already murdered several millions of Jews and anti-fascists.

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Karl-Heinrich Silex, Editor of "Tagesspiegel".

"Tagesspiegel", strictly conservative, is the most "serious" of the West Berlin newspapers. During the nazi period Dr Silex, its editor, was editor of the "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" and member of the "Leadership Council" of the nazi-run German Press Association. Here are some quotations from his past articles:

"Adolf Hitler, one of the few great men of world history, is supported by the confidence, the love and the respect of the Germans. He has often been able to thank God for his goodness, and has often received God's gifts. We greet him as the man whose path is Germany's path."

("Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung", April 20th 1939)

"Britain's attitude towards the continent has always made wars inevitable... In fighting Britain we are fighting the century-old enemy of the continent."

("Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung", March 19th 1940)

"We know the hatred with which Britain blindly brought about the war. Today this hatred has the undertone — if we must go under, then let at least the Germans go down with us."

("Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung", March 1st 1943)

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Arno Scholz, Editor of "Telegraf"

The West Berlin newspaper "Telegraf" is the unofficial organ of Willy Brandt, Social Democratic Mayor of West Berlin. Editor Arno Scholz worked in 1937 as adviser to the nazi commissioner for the "De-Judaisation of the German Economy". In 1939 he was presented by the nazis with the confiscated Jewish-owned photo-block processing plant Beckert & Lefson.

COVENTRY MAYOR REPLIES TO HATE CAMPAIGN

Alderman William Callow, Lord Mayor of Coventry, recently visited the GDR. On his return to Britain he wrote several articles and letters stating that he had seen many things in the GDR with which he could agree.

As a result he was fiercely attacked in a number of West German and West Berlin newspapers. A lead in the hate campaign was taken by the West Berlin newspaper "Der Tag", edited by nazi journalist Karl Willy Beer (for details of what Herr Beer wrote in the nazi era, see above on this page.) "Der Tag" stated: "Mr Callow should quit the field of politics, in which he wanders with a complete lack of instinct."

Lord Mayor Callow replied to "Der Tag" in a long letter, extracts from which are reproduced below. We have had to re-translate Mr Callow's letter from German:

"My attention has been drawn to your criticism of remarks which I made about conditions in the GDR, and I note that you regard my standpoint as shocking, and suggest that I should quit politics...

"May I first of all state that I know exactly what an Englishman thinks about democracy and freedom; after all that I and many of my friends in West Berlin have seen, you are the last people in the world who should use these phrases, since they obviously mean something different to you... For many years we have heard in the British press that well-known Nazi leaders in great numbers have resumed their positions in industry, in local government, and in the courts, and even in responsible positions in your police force, all of which is a clear breach of the Potsdam Agreement...

"I do not assume that everything in the West is white, and everything in the east is black. As far as my research has gone, and that of a host of others — many of them are friends of mine — there is much, very much, which is good in the GDR. Just like thousands of others in Britain I am not afraid of studying objectively Communist economic philosophy and ideology. There are many things I as an Englishman do not approve of, there are many aspects which I would not accept, but at the same time I recognise that many of the methods are determined by the conditions under which the system has been established and has to work, while West Berlin does everything in its power to state that the system does not work at all.

"I am not objecting to your attacks, since they prove that you are afraid to hear the other side of the question. As an Englishman this appears curious to me, coming as it does from people who speak glibly about freedom and democracy. It is a fact that I have very little faith in your idea of democracy, since there are convincing proofs of the complete suppression of any oppositional standpoint in West Berlin."

DAY WITH AN ATOM MAN

By Allen Mann

In our previous issue, Allen Mann reported on his visit to the Institute for Isotope Research, a section of the big cancer research centre in Buch, East Berlin. In the article on this page, he tells about the man who showed him around.

Atom Scientist Schmidt in his East Berlin Laboratory

I had the opportunity of speaking at greatest length with my guide, Heinz Schmidt, who despite his 27 years was already head of the laboratory for physical measurement in the institute.

Schmidt, who is rather short and stockily-built, with a wide, friendly face and one or two early grey hairs in his otherwise dark hair, comes from the little town of Finsterwalde about 60 miles south of Berlin. He was always a good pupil as a boy, and he recalled that in 1944 the nazis nearly selected him for their "Adolf Hitler School", but the SS officer who visited the school noticed by chance that he was wearing several sweaters that day and decided that he must be a weakling. "That saved me", he told me with a smile.

There were big quarrels in his family as to whether he should go on past elementary school. His father, a carpenter, and his mother, a cook, needed his earnings badly in the hungry days after the war, and secondary school cost money in those days. His teachers finally arranged for him to get tuition-free schooling and a 40-mark stipend monthly (just over £3), and they urged his father to agree. Finally he said that his son could continue his studies if he managed to support himself.

Unwittingly, his father had helped him in doing this by giving him lessons in playing the violin. The boy had learned so well at home that he needed only one year of outside instruction and he was then able to pay his way through secondary school by playing with a local orchestra.

He finished his schooling with very good grades and went on to the Humboldt University in Berlin to study physics. He must have worked very industriously here, too, for he received his diploma in 1958 after the relatively short period of five years. His thesis on the "4 π counter", an instrument for the absolute measurement of radioactive Beta rays, involved work here at the Institute for Isotope Research under the guidance of Professor Friedrich, the cancer research centre director, and after receiving his diploma he decided to stay on here, the only physicist in an institute of chemists and biologists. This keeps him busy. While we were talking, one of his colleagues telephoned and asked, "Say, Heinz, how many particles are emitted during the preparation of one microcurie?" Herr Schmidt told him that it was 2.2×10^6 particles per minute and then turned back to me to continue the conversation. This was only one of many such interruptions.

Herr Schmidt has not only used his three years in the institute to help his colleagues' research from the physics side, but also to make a number of inventions, some of which he is now patenting. They were all quite complicated in nature, of course; one was a new instrument for diagnosing thyroid cases by means of radioactive iodine, a method more practical and less alarming to the patient than previous methods.

As laboratory head, Heinz Schmidt receives a substantial salary of over 1000 marks a month. His wife teaches prospective trade school instructors at Humboldt University and also receives a good salary, so the family has a very comfortable income. They live in a four-room flat nearer the centre of East Berlin, and are waiting eagerly for the car they have ordered, which is finally due to arrive this March. They have one son of five, who goes to a nearby kindergarten during the day.

In addition to his regular work in the laboratory, Herr Schmidt is a member of the GDR's Council on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, where he takes part in two commissions — "Gamma Spectometry" and "Equipment for Nuclear Physical Measurement". He also translates articles from French, Russian and English technical journals into German, and is a member of a small English conversation circle to improve his already considerable ability in the language.

What else does atom physicist Heinz Schmidt do in his spare time? He told me that both he and his wife are working on their doctorate theses and are busy almost every minute, but he seems to do a lot just the same.

His field of physics is closely related to the study of optics, he told me, and this has led him to his great interest in amateur photography. "Every once in a while on a Saturday afternoon I telephone home that I'll be late and spend the afternoon here in the institute dark room developing and enlarging my films", he said.

"Then I love to experiment with our tape recorder. We spend all our free time on Sunday with our little boy, of course, and we can often use the tape recorder in games with him. My wife — a teacher — knows and thinks up lots of them. We also use it to help him learn to speak correctly."

"I don't get much chance for reading nowadays; when I can, I especially like to read Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Heinrich Heine, Leonard Frank and Bertold Brecht. However, we do make it a rule to go to the theatre at least once a month. My wife likes opera and I prefer plays — especially the Brecht plays at the Berliner Ensemble. But we usually manage to come to an agreement."

In another sphere they do not always reach agreement, he told me. His wife is a member of the Socialist Unity Party (the GDR equivalent of the Communist Party) and he is not.

"We discuss politics a great deal — in a friendly way, of course. Whereas I believe in socialism, too, I do not agree with her position on all points, so we have lots to talk about.

"I should mention, however, that I have always been intrigued by Marxism. As students we read a great many of the philosophers who preceded Marx — Kant, Hegel, etc. — but when I started reading books like "Capital" by Marx I was really fascinated by the precise, methodical way he built up his theory, going ahead step for step just like any good scientist.

"I have taken several trips to the Soviet Union for meetings with scientific colleagues there," he told me. "I was impressed by what seems to be the development of a new kind of person there."

"Some day I am sure we shall have reached the stage they are now in in the Soviet Union as far as our people and the whole general atmosphere are concerned. But there is still a long way ahead, and there are also many, many improvements needed."

It would be mistaken for me to judge all the scientists at the Institute on the basis of a conversation with one of them. I gathered that they varied greatly — all enthusiastic about their work but varying politically from those opponents of the GDR and socialism who have left for West Berlin (it is rumoured that higher salaries have been promised them there) to veterans of the progressive movement like Dr Coutelle, the Spanish Civil War veteran, and active younger Socialist Unity Party members like Dr Lindigkeit.

Many of them are certainly like Heinz Schmidt — sincere, undecided or in disagreement on certain measures and questions, but in full support of the main direction and path to socialism.

Working together in such institutes, these young scientists are closing the scientific gaps torn by difficult post-war years in scientific development and forging ahead in many fields at a rapid pace.

Algerian Cease-Fire Welcomed

Congratulations on the cease-fire in Algeria were sent by the GDR's Premier Otto Grotewohl to Ben Youssef Ben Khedda, Premier of the Provisional Government of Algeria on March 19th. The telegram stated:

"The Government and population of the German Democratic Republic greet the courageous people of Algeria, who have won a great success in their long struggle against the French imperialists, who were supported in every way by their West German NATO partners. The Government of the GDR affirms once more its full sympathy and solidarity."

Democratic Germany's support for Algeria in past years has included 4,280,000 marks contributed by GDR citizens towards Red Cross help for refugees and wounded Algerian soldiers. Many seriously-wounded Algerian liberation fighters have been treated in GDR hospitals and other young Algerians have received trade or college educations in the GDR.

Leipzig Fair - Big Success

Export sales of over 3,000 million marks (about £270,000,000) were chalked up by GDR trade organisations at this year's Spring Fair in Leipzig. The fair, which ended on March 13th after a great success despite vain attempts by NATO to organise a boycott, was visited by guests from 94 countries. 28,400 fair visitors came from non-socialist lands. There were large groups of exhibitors from the NATO countries as well, and 600 West German and 61 West Berlin businessmen spited strong government and newspaper pressure to exhibit at the fair; 10,725 additional West Germans came to do business.

Each year additional countries show their goods for the first time to prospective buyers; newcomers this year were Ceylon, Cyprus, Laos and the Mali Republic.

GDR trade results were, in total export sales: 2,401,000,000 marks worth of goods sold to socialist countries, 669,000,000 marks worth to other countries. On the import side, the GDR made contracts for 872,000,000 marks worth of imports from socialist countries and 385,000,000 marks worth from other countries.

Win a New Reader

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Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

Byron Symphony in Leipzig

The world première of the Byron Symphony by the British composer Alan Bush was performed in Leipzig in the GDR on March 20th. The symphony, for orchestra, chorus and baritone, was broadcast from Leipzig to many countries in Europe and Africa, including Belgium, Sweden, most of the socialist countries, Sierra Leone and the Congo (Brazzaville).

The first British performance of the Byron Symphony will be on June 6th in London.

West German VIP Speaks Up — and Gets Bashed

One of West Germany's senior political figures, Dr Thomas Dehler, Vice-Chairman of the West German Parliament, was publicly accused of treason in large sections of the West German press in mid-March because he had told the truth. Dr Dehler is a leading Free Democrat, and former West German Minister of Justice.

Dr Dehler's "crime" was that he stated in a TV programme that the cause of most of Germany's trouble today was the "primitive anti-Bolshevism" of West German policy. Germany had carried on an ideological crusade against Communism for the past thirty years, instead of pursuing a constructive policy of co-existence.

Immediately afterwards, the storm broke. Herr Kurt-Georg Kiesinger, Prime Minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg, described Dr Dehler as a "national catastrophe", and Dr Heinrich von Brentano, parliamentary leader of the Christian Democrats, stated he must be forced to resign. Christian Democratic newspapers accused Dr Dehler of "treason" and called him a "political imbecile".

Replying to Prime Minister Kiesinger, Dr Dehler stated: "I was serving German democracy at a time when you were supporting the deadly enemies of freedom and our nation". During the nazi period, Herr Kiesinger was liaison officer between the Foreign Ministry and Propaganda Ministry, and nazi documents which have survived show that in November 1942 he urged sending more nazi spies to Britain.

In an interview with "The Times", London, Dr Dehler declared that he would neither resign nor be forced to resign. He had received letters from all parts of Germany, and 90% of them approved of his stand. West German policy towards the Soviet Union should be pragmatic, like Britain's, and not based on ideology, he said. He considered it fantastic that he should be labelled a "national catastrophe" for saying something self-evident, when at almost the same time Chancellor Adenauer was advocating the rehabilitation of Herr Oberlaender, former Minister for Refugees, who had backed the nazi policy of conquest in the east.

Here are the key passages from Dr Dehler's TV speech which caused all the uproar:

"Recently I was speaking to Mr Smirnow, Bonn Ambassador of the Soviet Union, and he asked me when the 30-year war was going to end ... At first I felt inclined to laugh, but then I became serious. Chancellor von Papen began to steer an anti-Bolshevist course in 1932; he took up the nazi propaganda and started to speak of 'the hard line' that we must take. For the past thirty years Germany has been waging war, both Hot War and Cold War, against Russia.

"Herr von Papen started it, then came Hitler's seizure of power in 1933. The war, including the ideological war, was waged by Germany in the most crude and disgusting way. Then came 1941 and the Hot War. I have the bitter feeling that since 1945 we have resumed this Cold War, this ideological war ...

"My charge is that we have pursued no constructive policy in favour of German re-unification: we have simply contented ourselves with primitive anti-Bolshevism ... We have not yet overcome Hitler, we hear today the same tirades."

"NATO WOULD RECOGNISE GDR" — Paris Paper

The great majority of the NATO countries would be willing to recognise the GDR if it were not for the opposition of West German Government circles, the influential French weekly "L'Express" reported on March 15th. The newspaper stated:

"When Adenauer was re-elected, he was charged by the Americans and his other partners with a specific task: to sweep away the old taboos of (West) German policies, and to tell his people the truth. This was a fitting task for the 86-year-old Chancellor; it was a task which demanded a man without a political future, but with a famous past. The Chancellor was given 18 months in which to do the job.

"As a start he admitted reluctantly that Germany had not given full restitution for its crimes and for its defeat, and that people must be ready for great sacrifices. After that the old man appears not to have had strength enough to say more ... He found that his former collaborators (Brentano, Hallstein, Majonica, etc.) were watching him, ready to charge him, on the basis of his own doctrine, with treason. These men wished to seize the reins by being more 'Adenauerite' than the Chancellor, and more 'Atlanticist' than the majority of the NATO countries.

"The great majority of the NATO countries would approve of better relations between Bonn and Moscow; they would approve of Bonn's renunciation of the Polish provinces and the A-bomb; they would approve of the recognition of the GDR and accept the necessity of a new status for Berlin ... But amongst the German politicians not one has dared to hurt the feelings of his electors from Silesia and the Sudetenland by telling them a few home truths, truths which are a matter of public knowledge."

"Big Bribe" Probe

The West German Parliament has appointed a special inter-party committee to probe charges that Franz-Josef Strauss, Defence Minister, was involved in a vast bribery plan.

The charges were first aired in the West German magazine "Der Spiegel" on January 31st. The magazine printed letters written by Strauss showing that he was involved in a case of "contract fixing", and suggested that if the plan had gone through Strauss would have received a bribe of about £1,000,000. Full details of the charges were given in GERMAN REPORT on February 16th.

Political observers in Bonn believe that there may be two possible outcomes of the parliamentary probe:

1. It may result in a white-washing of the Defence Minister.

2. It may be manipulated by West German Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder in order to drive Strauss from public life, thus removing one of the main obstacles to Schroeder's succession to aged Chancellor Adenauer.

APR 28 1962

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Press conferences in any country can be exciting, interesting, or just plain boring, according to subject and according to taste, but I am sorry to have to report that in the German Democratic Republic they almost always have another dimension: length. No self-respecting press-conference-convenor here feels that journalists should be allowed to escape from a press conference in under two hours, even if edition time is pressing, or the pressmen present are obviously longing to get away for a drink or a meal. The press conference on nazis in the West German press, the results of which we report on another page, was no exception as regards length: but I must give the organisers credit for starting the conference off with a sensational bang.

Real Shockers

When we were all assembled in the big press conference room of the National Front building, the lights were lowered, and for ten minutes we were shown extracts from old nazi films. They were real shockers, films which made American cold-war propaganda films look as though they were made by a bunch of kind-hearted old ladies. First there was a film, made in 1941, entitled "People in the Storm". It dealt with an idyllic village in a German-speaking minority area in Yugoslavia just before the nazi troops invaded the country in 1941. Everything is so very neat and clean and civilised, with blonde maidens trilling blonde Nordic folk-songs. Suddenly a band of dark-haired, dark-visaged, dark-hearted Serbian soldiers invades the village pillaging and raping. A clear-eyed Germanic heroine cries: "These Serbs are not human beings — they are dogs."

Nordic Czarists

The next film, called "White Slaves", made in 1937, dealt with the Russian Revolution. On one side we see the Czarist officers and their families, all curiously Nordic and very blonde. On the other side are the revolutionaries, Semitic - looking, hunch-backed and drooling, raping, burning churches and so on.

And the third film entitled "Head Up, Johannes", dealt with a fine young Aryan Hitler Youth leader, who keeps on looking confidently into the future, and saying "Each one of us must be ready to do his part for Fuehrer and Folk!".

After these three film extracts, the lights went up again, and we learned who had written the scripts for these three incredible films. It was none other than Dr Felix von Eckardt, today head of the Government Press Office of the West German Government, and one of Dr Adenauer's closest advisers. You will find more information about this gentleman and his colleagues on the front page of this issue.

His Hero

On March 19th a West Berlin court had to deal with the case of a young man who had caused a commotion in a pub. After watching a TV report on the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, he had shouted: "My father, all by himself, killed 2000 Jews. Not enough Jews were killed. Eichmann ought to come to West Berlin: we would greet him as a hero".

The West Berlin court bound him over for three years, and imposed a 100 mark fine. The judge commented mildly: "This fine should remind you that such remarks are not only nasty; they are also calculated to impair the reputation of Germany in the world."

Or in other words, we don't mind much what you do, but don't let the neighbours see.

Yarn of the Year

Over the past ten years, GERMAN REPORT has collected a very nice assembly of odd, funny and tragic phoney stories about the German Democratic Republic, ranging from the hardy annual about the banning of Christmas trees to the recent stretcher that food was so dear in the GDR that nobody could afford it. Somehow I always feel when I encounter a lurid item that the ultimate boggle has been reached: but someone always comes up with something better.

However, I do feel this week that I have got a really record phoney, but before I repeat it, let me give you a little background. As you probably know, the western allies claim the right, under the original occupation agreements of 1945, to move freely in both halves of Berlin. American army cars, driven by NCOs and officers in uniform, regularly tour East Berlin rather unnecessarily in order to exert this right, and they are not interfered with in any way, though they sometimes pay precious little attention to the traffic regulations.

Shaky Agents

But here is the wonderful little gem about these US army cars which I have found in the January 6th issue of "Aktuell", a right-wing news-magazine published in Munich by Hans Kapfinger, bosom friend of West German Defence Minister Strauss:

"Unknown assailants throw stones at the cars, and East Berlin drivers, driving badly on purpose, try to involve them in traffic accidents. Lively young men fall from their bicycles at the precise moment when they might be run over by the olive-green American military cars. Agents disguised as shaky old men often 'suffer' attacks of weakness just in front of the American military cars, which are driven more than carefully."

The next time I see one of these American prowl cars, I really must follow it, and count the corpses it leaves behind.

It's an eye-popping story all right. Perhaps in ten years we shall hear the following dialogue: "What did you do in the Cold War, daddy?" "My job was throwing apoplectic fits in front of American cars."

No, Not Johann

As you may imagine, a small newspaper like GERMAN REPORT cannot keep on file all the magazines and newspapers which it would like to, so we often have to telephone around to find which archive in East Berlin has back copies of some more of less obscure publication which we wish to consult. A few days ago we rang the library of a big newspaper here, which shall be nameless. We were looking for a specific article about Strauss, we said, meaning of course the notorious West German Defence Minister. A helpful voice at the other end of the wire replied: "Strauss? Oh, I'll connect you with our music department."

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